

May 13, 2011, due to a family emergency. Had I been present, I would have recorded the following votes: rollcall No. 323—"nay," rollcall No. 324—"nay," rollcall No. 325—"aye," rollcall No. 326—"aye," rollcall No. 327—"aye," rollcall No. 328—"aye," rollcall No. 329—"aye."

CALVIN MERRILLS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Calvin Merrills for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Calvin Merrills is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Calvin Merrills is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Calvin Merrills for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF FATHER GEORGE  
WANSE, S.J.

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Father George Wanser, who has served the people of Sacramento since 1994 as a priest, campus minister, and chaplain. He has been with the Newman Catholic Community in Sacramento for close to 10 years, and as he moves on this summer to the Most Holy Trinity Parish in San Jose, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this man for the dedication he has shown the Sacramento area.

At a young age, Father Wanser became involved in the church. He excelled at both Fordham University and the Pontificia Universidad Catolica Javeriana de Bogota in Columbia. Father Wanser taught history, religious studies, and English in Puerto Rico from 1970 through 1973. He taught music, was head wrestling coach, and worked as the Puerto Rican High School Athletic Alliance Wrestling Commissioner.

In the 1970s, Father Wanser moved back to the U.S. and was ordained. He was assigned to several community organizing projects all over California, including churches in Fresno, Santa Ana, Fullerton, and San Diego.

Father Wanser arrived in Sacramento in 1999 when he began at Jesuit High School. Since his arrival he has contributed much to the Sacramento area. He has spent the last several decades as a campus minister and

chaplain, and has also worked at Christian Brothers High School, UC Davis, and Cristo Rey High School.

Father Wanser has served the Newman Catholic Community of Sacramento for the past 10 years, and has inspired countless people through his goodwill and leadership. His friends and followers have expressed their gratitude for his strength and conviction, and his presence will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the contributions that Father Wanser has made to Sacramento. His sincere commitment to those around him and his enthusiasm for inspiring others has made a difference for countless people in our community. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Father Wanser for his years of leadership, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING POPLAR SPRINGS  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation.

Whereas, Poplar Springs Baptist Church is one of our most beloved treasures in the State of Georgia; and

Whereas, Pastor Ulysses and First Lady Annie Ponder are the two jewels that have been placed by God to lead and serve the members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church for the past 23 three years; and

Whereas, this tenacious man and virtuous woman of God give of themselves daily in order to uplift the kingdom, serve the community and to give to those in need; and

Whereas, honor, humility, courage and foresight are words that describe the Pastor and First Lady, we would be remiss if we did not speak of the love and admiration they have towards God, the Church and the Community; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Pastor Ulysses Ponder and First Lady Annie Ponder as they celebrate 23 years of outstanding leadership and service;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 1, 2011 as Pastor Ulysses and First Lady Annie Ponder Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 1st day of May, 2011.

BRIANA MUNOZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Briana Munoz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Briana Munoz is an 8th grader at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Briana Munoz is exemplary of the type of achieve-

ment that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Briana Munoz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING AZERBAIJAN'S  
REPUBLIC DAY AND 20 YEARS  
OF U.S.-AZERBIJAN RELATIONS

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as it celebrates its 93rd anniversary of independence from the Russian Empire, I would like to take the opportunity to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of its May 28th Republic Day. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the start of diplomatic relations with the United States.

Azerbaijan has made incredible progress in the last 20 years and has become a key ally of the United States in a strategically important region.

Azerbaijan is located between Russia and Iran in the strategic region between Europe and Asia. A stable and secular country, it is one of the few places in that part of the world where Muslims, Jews and Christians live together in peace.

The U.S.-Azerbaijan partnership is based on shared values and common goals and is a key component to regional security. As highlighted by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates during a recent visit to Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan provides multi-faceted support for U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan and is a key part of the Northern Distribution Network providing ground and naval transit for roughly 25 percent of the Coalition's supplies bound for Afghanistan.

Beyond support for U.S. security interests in the region, Azerbaijan plays a paramount role in strengthening U.S. and European energy security and is expanding its commercial and economic ties with the United States. Azerbaijan is a secular Muslim country that maintains close friendly ties with Israel and supplies roughly a quarter of Israel's oil.

My colleagues are encouraged to join me in honoring Azerbaijan on the occasion of its 93rd Republic Day and celebrating a robust U.S.-Azerbaijan relationship.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE MV *PRU-*  
*DENCE*

**HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 24, 2011*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the *MV Prudence*, what is believed to be the oldest continuously operated, fully documented merchant vessel in the United States.